



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRIPES

August 31, 2007

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Vendor Data Clean-up

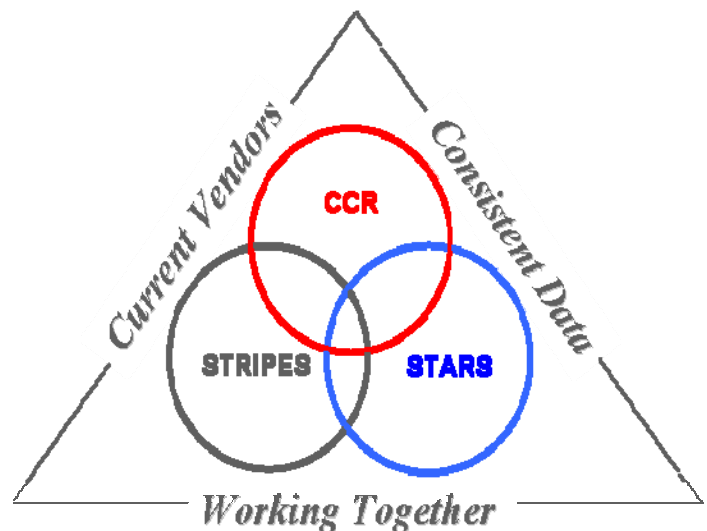
Since October 1, 2003, the Federal government has mandated that a vendor must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) before being awarded a FAR-based contract. This mandate seeks to provide both government acquisition and finance professionals with the critical vendor information they need to award, administer and make payments for a contract. In the past, this critical CCR data has been entered manually as needed by Finance and Procurement professionals. As a result, duplicate entries can be found and company information varies from one entry to the next.

As a standard feature, STRIPES provides a real-time vendor interface with CCR that pulls vendor information directly from the CCR federal registry. A direct link to CCR for vendor data significantly increases the accuracy and consistency of vendor information required for award eligibility and issuance. Beginning in January 2008, most recipients will be required to be registered in CCR. Regular CCR registration exceptions will still apply.

Once a vendor is selected in STRIPES, the Contract Specialist inserts the nine digit vendor identifier known as the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The system will go to CCR and pull the basic information such as the Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN), company name and address.

The Challenge

While a future version of STARS is expected to have a direct interface with CCR, the current version does not. However, the financial community uses a system called ENCORE, which is an identical copy of CCR data from the previous day. This allows the financial community to obtain the necessary vendor data needed to update STARS. Both STARS and STRIPES, however, are integrated systems so the vendor data has to match even if they focus on different data elements. The key is to have a standard identifier that allows both STARS and STRIPES to associate the specific vendor information each system needs. That is why vendors will be identified by their DUNS + TIN instead of a vendor name and/or address.



The Solution

In order to check that the vendor information is correct in STARS and STRIPES, automated validations are needed. By conducting a validation check in STRIPES, the contracting officer or contract specialist (CO/CS) will be notified if the same vendor record exists in STARS.

- ✓ If a vendor match appears in STARS, the system will pass the validation check in STRIPES. The CO/CS may then proceed with the award.
- ✓ If the STRIPES vendor does not exist or the validation check shows multiple listings of the same vendor in STARS, an error message will appear. The CO/CS will contact the appropriate finance personnel to add or correct the vendor information in STARS.

These efforts will help to continue to improve data symmetry in both systems.

Moving Forward

The vendor DUNS + TIN number from CCR will be required in STARS to maintain alignment with STRIPES. The DOE CFO and Acquisition community have been proactive to clean the vendor data as much as possible before STRIPES deployment. Dedication of the time and resources needed for vendor clean-up will greatly reduce the number of validation errors for STRIPES users. The current vendor clean-up activity in STARS will continue until the beginning of STRIPES deployment in January 2008. The priorities for the vendor data clean-up include:

- ✓ Eliminate duplicate vendor sites that appear from legacy data from STARS;
- ✓ Enter appropriate DUNS + TIN to vendor records in STARS; and,
- ✓ Focus vendor clean-up on current Purchase Orders or Contracts that will be transitioned into STRIPES.

Everyone Benefits

While additional steps may be required initially for STARS and STRIPES users alike, this will reduce the chance of payment to the wrong vendor or address. Automating the acquisition action across the Department eliminates the amount of “guess work” in selecting the right vendor listing.

To learn more about CCR please visit www.ccr.gov.

Policy Corner: Loading Clause Sections into STRIPES

The DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy (Policy) has had a very busy and productive summer. This month, the Policy office is pleased to report that local clause sections B - G have been configured and loaded into STRIPES. The clauses will be used in preparation for the STRIPES Pilot Training and User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which are scheduled for November 2007.

The Policy office is now working on Section H clauses and segmenting those clauses into categories for review. Some of the Section H categories include: Pensions, Government Property, Intellectual Property, Cyber Security, etc. Each set of clauses has been sent to subject matter experts and the Office of General Counsel for review and concurrence.

STRIPES Project Information

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